

FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Please fill in the highlighted areas
all sections (IA, IB, IC, etc.) must be addressed or the application will be considered invalid

I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: US Forest Service – Heather Degeest, Helena District Ranger
- B. Mailing Address: 2880 Skyway Drive
- C. City: Helena State: MT Zip: 59602
- Telephone: (406)495-3924 E-mail: hdegeest@fs.fed.us
- D. Contact Person: Megan Dawson
- Address if different from Applicant: 2880 Skyway Drive
- City: Helena State: MT Zip: 59602
- Telephone: (406)495-3933 E-mail: mbdawson@fs.fed.us
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant):
- Mailing Address:
- City: State: Zip:
- Telephone: E-mail:

II. PROJECT INFORMATION*

- A. Project Name: Elliston Creek Riparian Pasture
- River, stream, or lake: Elliston Creek
- Location: Township: 9N Range: 7W Section: 11/12
- Latitude: Longitude: within project (decimal degrees)
- County: Powell County
- B. Purpose of Project:

The purpose of the project is to create a riparian pasture by separating Elliston Creek from the uplands to control the timing of cattle grazing, the amount of utilization of the forage plants and manage the amount of time plants are allowed to recover after grazing along the lower drainage of Elliston Creek's riparian areas by constructing an additional 1.5 miles of fence. Monitoring of the riparian area has shown that prior adaptive management efforts have not resolved overuse impacts (bank disturbance and utilization standards) observed over the last three years. Creating the riparian pasture is anticipated to be a permanent solution that will benefit riparian, stream and fish habitat.

C. Brief Project Description:

1.5 miles of fence will be constructed to create a riparian pasture in the lower reach of the Elliston Creek Drainage. In order to maintain the integrity of the fence, dead trees are needed to be cleared from the route. The fence proposed would be wildlife friendly and follow the Future Fisheries guidelines for fencing for properties with high or continuous livestock use with the exception of using T-posts except at braces. The riparian pasture would restrict cattle grazing to 7-15 days, reducing the time allowed by a quarter to half the time previously allowed.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 1.4 miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 11,880.00

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ 61,920.00 In-kind \$ 0.00

(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ 0.00 In-kind \$ 0.00

(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 73,800

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

Attach **specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support and fish biologist support, and/or other information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete a *supplemental questionnaire*** (fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. **Attach land management & maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.**

III. **PROJECT BENEFITS***

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

A population of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout occupy the lower reaches of Elliston Creek. Sculpin, and non-native brown and brook trout also occupy the lower reaches of Elliston. While it is possible that bull trout historically occupied Elliston Creek, fish surveys including eDNA sampling in 2015 did not detected bull trout in this tributary to the Little Blackfoot River.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

Elliston Creek riparian fence

Limiting the duration and the season of use cattle are allowed in the riparian area in the lower reaches of Elliston Creek will protect approximately 1.4 miles of viable spawning and rearing habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. Elliston Creek and the downstream receiving waters of the Little Blackfoot River are both 303d listed for sedimentation impairments and alteration to stream-side vegetative cover in part, due to grazing activities. Sediment TMDLs for Elliston Creek were put in place in 2011 by the Little Blackfoot River TMDL report. A separate riparian pasture is needed to manage cattle trailing and bank disturbance that contributes to increased sedimentation. This will improve spawning habitat, water quality and improve quality pool habitat for rearing and over wintering salmonids. Limiting the duration of these impacts along the stream banks will encourage a more diverse composition of riparian-wetland vegetation to recover providing streambank stability and canopy cover. Improving the stream and riparian habitat conditions are anticipated to increase the resiliency and viability of the native species population present.

C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

Creating a riparian pasture will allow cattle to be managed to avoid grazing along the lower portions of Elliston Creek during the critical spawning, incubating and rearing periods. Limiting duration of grazing from 30 days to 7-15 dependent on vegetation and monitoring thresholds will improve streambank stability and lessen sedimentation impacts to spawning gravels and improve pool habitat conditions within Elliston Creek and downstream habitat in the Little Blackfoot River. Improved habitat and spawning conditions should aid recruitment to reaches of the Little Blackfoot River, benefitting the fishable population as other efforts are taken to improve habitat and water quality in the watershed.

D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

The proposed fencing would improve overall water quality and aquatic habitat. The riparian pasture allows for more restrictive management of cattle, delaying access and alleviating direct impacts westslope cutthroat during critical spawning periods. By limiting the duration of grazing, management could more closely monitor and strictly enforce grazing standards and guidelines that would lessen sediment impacts and indirectly increase westslope cutthroat populations and improve recreational fishing opportunities. The proposed fence line would be placed above FSR 314 and would not restrict fishing access. The reach is already accessible to the public and may improve fishing opportunities downstream in the Little Blackfoot River.

E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

The maintenance of the fence will be assigned to the grazing permittee in the Term Grazing Permit. These permits are renewed every 10 years and maintenance of fences and stocking watering improvements are reassigned. As long as the fence is needed for grazing management, it will be maintained.

F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Currently the amount of time cattle are allowed to graze and become concentrated in the riparian area is not able to be controlled. With free access to the riparian area, utilization and the amount of time allowed for plant recovery have not be managed properly.

G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

Elliston Creek and the Little Blackfoot River are 303d listed for sedimentation impairments and alteration of riparian vegetative cover. Public benefits would include improved water quality and recreational fish/camping opportunities along Elliston Creek and the Little Blackfoot River. This project would help move Elliston Creek and the larger Little Blackfoot watershed toward meeting the goals set forth by the 2011 Little Blackfoot River TMDLs in conjunction with other on-going work in the watershed.

H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):

The project will have no effect on water rights and is designed to change the distribution of cattle in the allotment's pastures rather than decrease the number of AUMs.

I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No

J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

No

Each approved project applicant must enter into a written agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks specifying terms and duration of the project. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits prior to project construction. A competitive bid process must be followed when using State funds.

IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:

Deborah Anderson

Date:

11/29/17

Sponsor (if applicable):

***Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

Mail To: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Fisheries Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

E-mail To: Michelle McGree
mmcgree@mt.gov
(electronic submissions MUST be signed)

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected and returned to applicant.
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

*****Applications must be signed and *received* by the Future Fisheries Program Officer in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.*****

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

[illegible]

BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

All of the columns in the budget table and the matching contribution table MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid. Please see the example budget sheet for additional clarification.

*Units = feet, hours, inches, etc. Do not use lump sum unless there is no other way to describe the costs.

****Can include in-kind materials. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used for calculations). Describe here or in text.**

Reminder: Government salaries cannot be used as in-kind match

***The Review Panel suggests that design and oversight costs associated with a proposed project not exceed 15% of the total project budget. If design and oversight costs are in excess of 15%, applications must include a minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project.

****The Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of \$1.50 per foot. Additional costs may be the responsibility of the applicant and/or partners.

MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS (do not include requested funds)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Forest Service	\$ -	\$ 61,920.00	\$ 61,920.00	Yes
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ -	\$ 61,920.00	\$ 61,920.00	



Elliston Creek Fence Proposal

